



IFCC Trial Election

IFCC Trial Election: Background

At the 2011 IFCC Council meeting in Berlin agreement was reached to introduce electronic rather than manual voting for future IFCC elections.

The IFCC electorate is small (currently 88 Full Members) meaning that the chances of a 'tied vote' are quite high.

Therefore, the Executive Board agreed to adopt an electoral process that will always allow a clear result from a single ballot. This process encompasses preferential voting amongst candidates with counting by the Alternate (or Instant Run Off) voting system. The ballot will be conducted independent agency.

This method of voting and counting is not familiar to everyone so a trial election was agreed.

IFCC Trial Election

A trial election is being conducted among General Conference participants to gain experience of:

- Preferential voting
- The Alternate Vote system of counting

Five candidates have been nominated as the person that made the accidental scientific discovery that has made the greatest impact:

1. Leo Hendrick Baekeland – invented plastic
2. Alexander Fleming – invented penicillin
3. John Pemberton – invented Coca Cola
4. Wilhelm Roentgen – invented X-rays
5. Percy Spencer – invented the microwave oven

IFCC Trial Election: Process

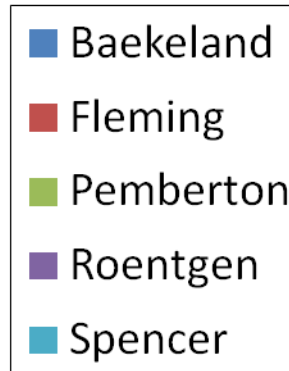
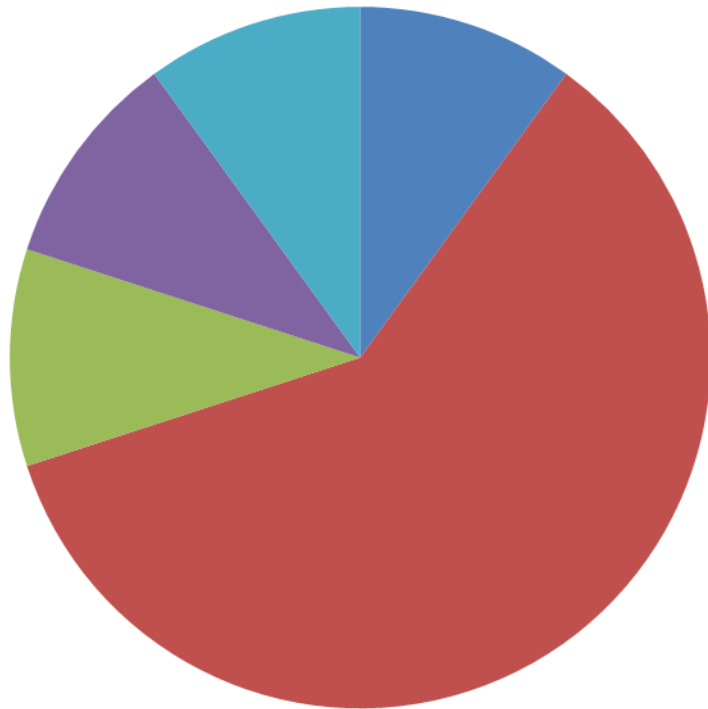
All General Conference participants received an email inviting you to vote in this election. You were invited to vote expressing an order of preference among the five candidates

The ballot closes at 24.00h this evening. Therefore, if you have not already voted and you can access your emails then there is still time to vote.

The ballot is being conducted by the independent company 'Election Buddy'. Counting will be conducted by the Alternate Vote system. The result will be declared tomorrow morning!

IFCC Trial Election: Result

%Vote



135 Votes
Cast

Alexander Fleming gains >50% of first preference votes on the first count and so is elected. There is no need for a second count.

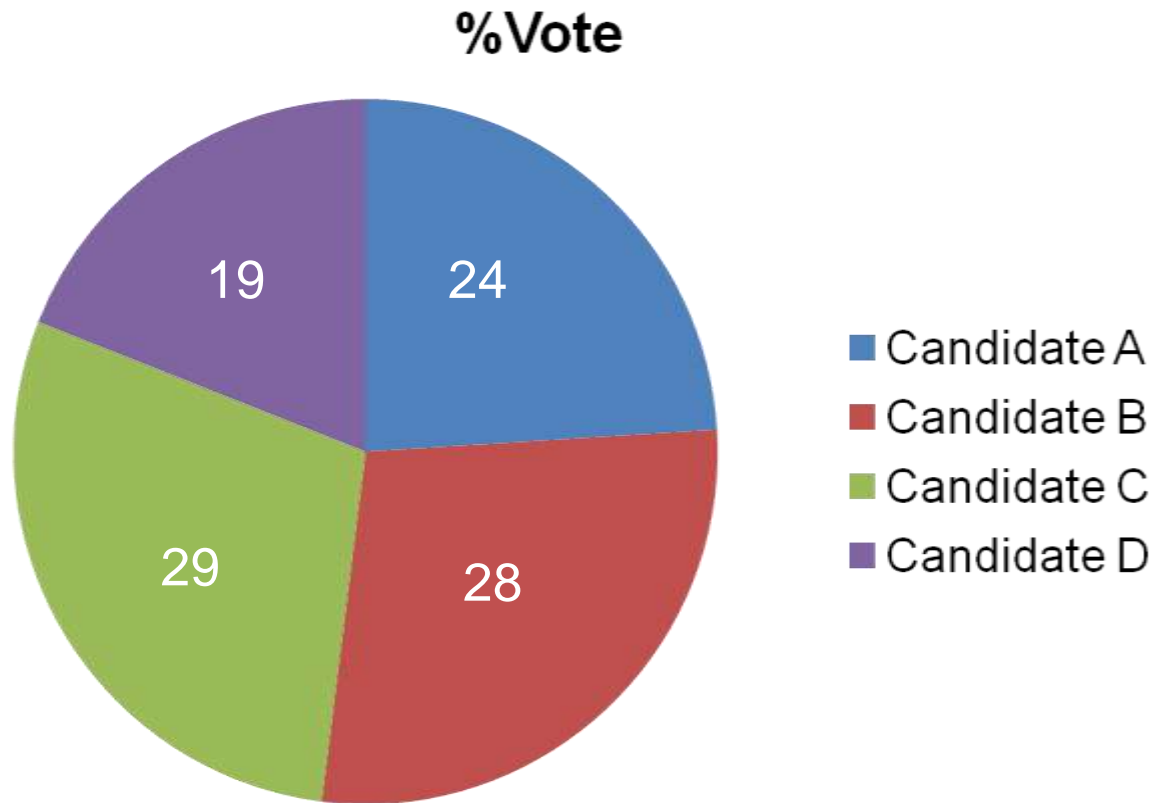
Alternate Voting Explained: Election Process

Four excellent candidates (A,B,C,D) are nominated for election as the next President of IFCC

The 88 Full Members of IFCC cast their votes electronically. Electors rank the four candidates in preference order 1-4 (not every candidate needs to be ranked). An example of this method of voting has been tested with this audience.

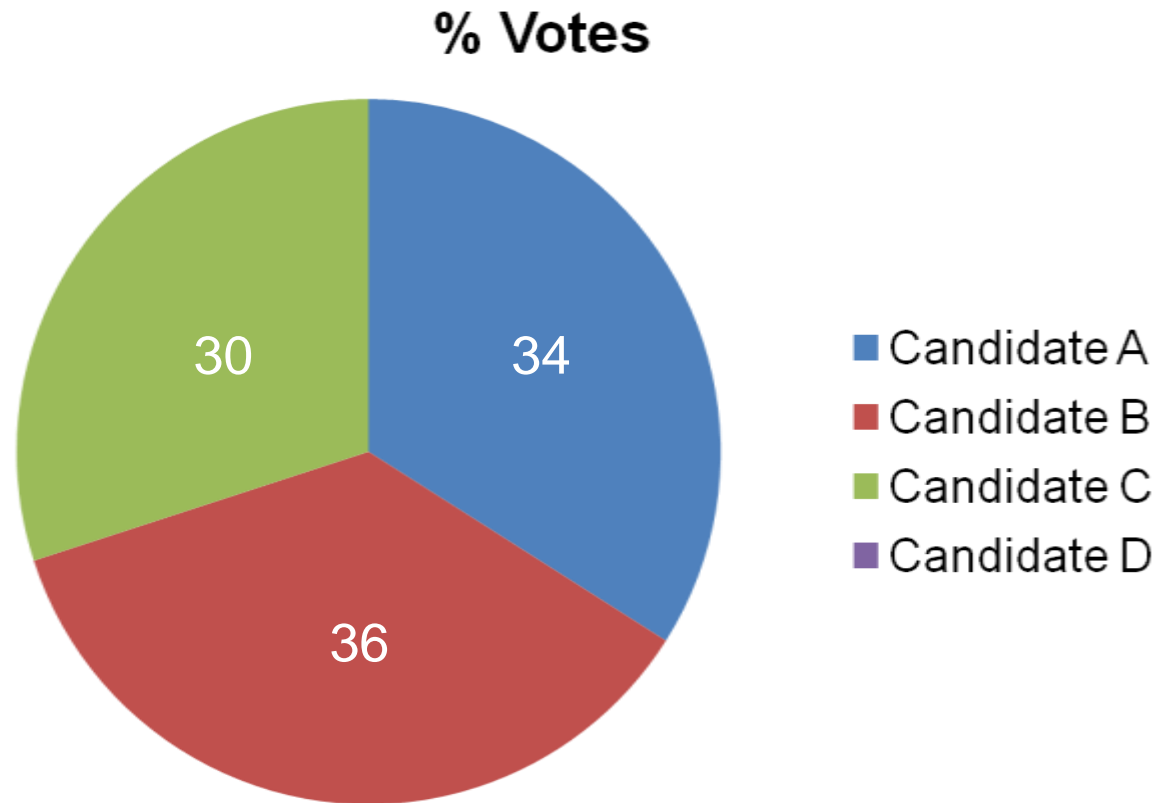
Votes are counted according to the Alternate (Instant Run Off) voting system using the independent company 'Election Buddy'

Alternate Voting Explained: First Count



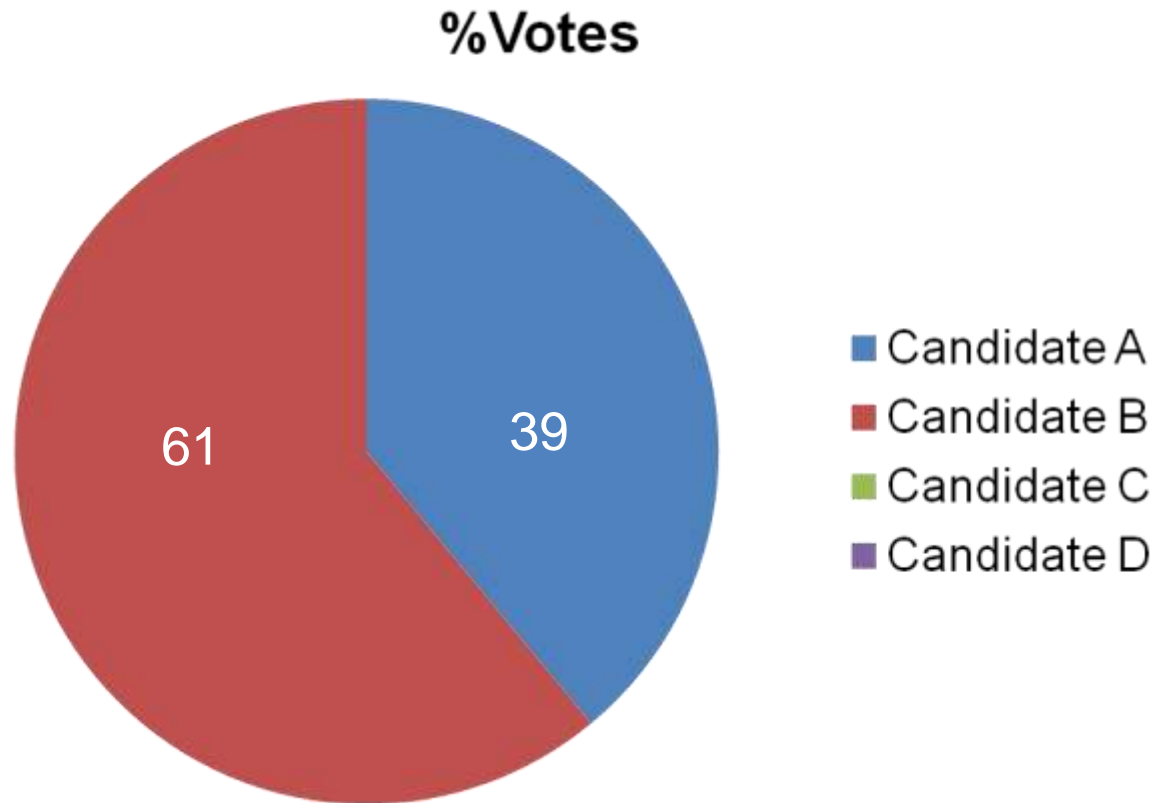
- The four candidates poll the percentage votes shown in the Figure
- Under conventional voting Candidate C is elected with only 29% of the votes
- Under the Alternate Voting system Candidate D is eliminated and his/her second preference votes are allocated to the other three candidates

Alternate Voting Explained: Second Count



- After distribution of preference votes the percentage votes are as in the Figure
- No candidate achieves 50% of the votes
- Under the Alternate Voting system Candidate C is now eliminated and his/her second or third preference votes are allocated to the other two candidates

Alternate Voting Explained: Third Count



- After distribution of preference votes the percentage votes are as in the Figure
- Candidate B is elected with 61% of the votes

Alternate Voting: Advantages/Disadvantages

Advantages

- There is always a result after a single election
- The winner always gets >50% of the votes
- Second (and third) preference votes are important
- There is less need for tactical voting

Disadvantages

- It is not a strict system of proportional representation (not important for IFCC)
- In close elections a 'compromise' candidate could be defeated
- The order of candidates may be important